

## **Amber Wright**

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**From:** Alfreda Tillman Bester  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 22, 2016 1:19 PM  
**To:** Etta Harris; Dora Thomas; Jeanine LeBlanc  
**Cc:** Joyce Smith Woods  
**Subject:** RE: Meeting Request

Thanks, all.

Alfreda Tillman Bester, MBA, JD  
Assistant Secretary of Family Support  
Louisiana Department of Children & Family Services  
627 N. Fourth Street  
Baton Rouge, LA 70802  
225-342-3877

-----Original Message-----

From: Etta Harris  
Sent: Thursday, September 22, 2016 9:54 AM  
To: Alfreda Tillman Bester; Dora Thomas; Jeanine LeBlanc  
Cc: Joyce Smith Woods  
Subject: RE: Meeting Request

Dora and Jeanine will assist and I will edit using the document

-----Original Message-----

From: Alfreda Tillman Bester  
Sent: Wednesday, September 21, 2016 3:03 PM  
To: Dora Thomas; Etta Harris; Jeanine LeBlanc  
Cc: Joyce Smith Woods; Alfreda Tillman Bester  
Subject: RE: Meeting Request

Thanks, All.

Who will be responsible for the draft letter?

Alfreda Tillman Bester, MBA, JD  
Assistant Secretary of Family Support  
Louisiana Department of Children & Family Services  
627 N. Fourth Street  
Baton Rouge, LA 70802  
225-342-3877

-----Original Message-----

From: Dora Thomas  
Sent: Wednesday, September 21, 2016 11:54 AM  
To: Etta Harris; Jeanine LeBlanc

Cc: Alfreda Tillman Bester; Joyce Smith Woods  
Subject: RE: Meeting Request

Yes, I will be able to attend when the meeting is rescheduled.

Dora

-----Original Message-----

From: Etta Harris  
Sent: Wednesday, September 21, 2016 11:42 AM  
To: Dora Thomas; Jeanine LeBlanc  
Cc: Alfreda Tillman Bester; Joyce Smith Woods  
Subject: RE: Meeting Request

Dora, do you think this is possible

-----Original Message-----

From: Alfreda Tillman Bester  
Sent: Wednesday, September 21, 2016 11:37 AM  
To: Etta Harris; Joyce Smith Woods; Dora Thomas  
Cc: Alfreda Tillman Bester  
Subject: RE: Meeting Request

Absolutely. If the meeting is rescheduled, I would welcome Dora's participation.

In the interim, please have the appropriate staff draft a detailed explanation for my signature, with a chart for Ms. Thomas, outlining what was invoiced and paid, emphasizing any deadlines and whether submissions were timely.

It would be great if we can send this out by Friday, September 23, 2016. Please advise of any challenges.

Thanks in advance for your assistance.

Alfreda Tillman Bester, MBA, JD  
Assistant Secretary of Family Support  
Louisiana Department of Children & Family Services  
627 N. Fourth Street  
Baton Rouge, LA 70802  
225-342-3877

-----Original Message-----

From: Etta Harris  
Sent: Wednesday, September 21, 2016 9:57 AM  
To: Alfreda Tillman Bester; Joyce Smith Woods; Dora Thomas  
Subject: RE: Meeting Request

Alfreda, I think Dora should attend

-----Original Message-----

From: Alfreda Tillman Bester  
Sent: Tuesday, September 20, 2016 4:46 PM  
To: Joyce Smith Woods; Etta Harris  
Cc: Alfreda Tillman Bester

Subject: RE: Meeting Request

Etta,

See below. We are actually scheduled for tomorrow at 10:00 a.m. with the Thomases and Senator Barrow.

Alfreda Tillman Bester, MBA, JD  
Assistant Secretary of Family Support  
Louisiana Department of Children & Family Services  
627 N. Fourth Street  
Baton Rouge, LA 70802  
225-342-3877

-----Original Message-----

From: Joyce Smith Woods  
Sent: Wednesday, September 14, 2016 3:57 PM  
To: Alfreda Tillman Bester  
Subject: RE: Meeting Request  
Importance: High

9/21 @ 10:00

Joyce Smith Woods, AA6  
State Office of the Undersecretary  
Telephone: 225.342.0805  
Facsimile: 225.342.8636  
Joyce.SmithWoods.DCFS@LA.Gov

-----Original Message-----

From: Alfreda Tillman Bester  
Sent: Wednesday, September 14, 2016 3:11 PM  
To: Joyce Smith Woods  
Subject: FW: Meeting Request

Ms. Joyce,

I can do 9/20 at 11:00 a.m.

Alfreda Tillman Bester, MBA, JD  
Assistant Secretary of Family Support  
Louisiana Department of Children & Family Services  
627 N. Fourth Street  
Baton Rouge, LA 70802  
225-342-3877

-----Original Message-----

From: Morris, Kenyatta [mailto:[morrisk@legis.la.gov](mailto:morrisk@legis.la.gov)]  
Sent: Wednesday, September 14, 2016 3:08 PM

To: Joyce Smith Woods  
Cc: Alfreda Tillman Bester  
Subject: RE: Meeting Request

Ms. Woods,  
Senator Barrow is out of town for the rest of the week.  
Her next availability is Tuesday, Sept 20th any time before 2pm.  
Thanks,

| Kenyatta D. Morris |  
| Louisiana State Senate |  
| o. 225.342.0752 |

-----Original Message-----

From: Joyce Smith Woods [mailto:Joyce.SmithWoods.DCFS@LA.GOV]  
Sent: Wednesday, September 14, 2016 3:06 PM  
To: Morris, Kenyatta  
Cc: Alfreda Tillman Bester  
Subject: RE: Meeting Request

Deputy Undersecretary Etta Harris will be able to meet with you on tomorrow, 15 September 2016 at 10:30. Please advise if this time is valid for Senator Barrow.

Joyce Smith Woods, AA6  
State Office of the Undersecretary  
Telephone: 225.342.0805  
Facsimile: 225.342.8636  
Joyce.SmithWoods.DCFS@LA.Gov

-----Original Message-----

From: Etta Harris  
Sent: Thursday, September 01, 2016 9:02 AM  
To: Morris, Kenyatta  
Cc: Etta Harris; Joyce Smith Woods; Alfreda Tillman Bester  
Subject: RE: Meeting Request

Morning Kenyatta, I will have my assistant contact you with a date and time. I also want the staff that is responsible for processing the payments to attend and currently they are participating in DSNAP.

-----Original Message-----

From: Morris, Kenyatta [mailto:morrisk@legis.la.gov]  
Sent: Thursday, September 01, 2016 8:50 AM  
To: Etta Harris  
Subject: RE: Meeting Request

Dear Ms. Harris,

Senator Barrow asked that I contact you to schedule a meeting with Mrs. Barbara Thomas.

Currently, Sen. Barrow is available at the following times:

Tues, Sept 6 between 10am-1pm  
Wed, Sept 7 between 10am-12pm  
Thurs, Sept 8 anytime  
Fri, Sept 9 from 10-11am.

Please let me know what day and time works best for you.

Best regards,

| Kenyatta D. Morris |  
| Louisiana State Senate |  
| o. 225.342.0752 |

-----Original Message-----

From: Etta Harris [mailto:[Etta.Harris.DCFS@LA.GOV](mailto:Etta.Harris.DCFS@LA.GOV)]  
Sent: Wednesday, August 31, 2016 11:27 PM  
To: Regina  
Cc: Etta Harris; Morris, Kenyatta; Alfreda Tillman Bester  
Subject: Re: Meeting Request

Thanks

Sent from my iPad

> On Aug 31, 2016, at 11:18 PM, "Regina" <[reginabarrow@att.net](mailto:reginabarrow@att.net)> wrote:  
>  
> Sure, I will ask Kenyatta from my office to contact you to coordinate the meeting.  
>  
> Thank you!  
>  
> Regina Ashford Barrow  
> State Sen. D-15  
>  
>> On Aug 31, 2016, at 5:49 PM, Etta Harris <[Etta.Harris.DCFS@LA.GOV](mailto:Etta.Harris.DCFS@LA.GOV)> wrote:  
>>  
>> Hey Senator, can I let you know next week since I am working Emergency Preparedness and it will be our last week of DSNAP?  
>>  
>> Sent from my iPad  
>>  
>>> On Aug 31, 2016, at 5:24 PM, "Regina" <[reginabarrow@att.net](mailto:reginabarrow@att.net)> wrote:  
>>>  
>>> Hello Ms. Harris and Mrs. Thomas,  
>>>  
>>> I would like to schedule a meeting with DCFS and NBR Women's Help Center to bring resolve to this matter as quickly as possible. Please advise me of available day next week.  
>>>  
>>> Thanking you both in advance for your cooperation.  
>>>  
>>> Regina Ashford Barrow  
>>> State Sen. D-15  
>>>

>>>> On Aug 31, 2016, at 5:00 PM, Barbara J Thomas <barbarat@family-values.org> wrote:

>>>

>>>

>>> Ms. Harris,

>>>

>>> These are the proof of payments; I will be forwarding to you emails that I communicated to Jeanine LeBlanc from 7/28/2016 through 8/9/2016 to verify timeline and conversations with Ms. LeBlanc.

>>>

>>>

>>> Quoting Etta Harris <Etta.Harris.DCFS@la.gov>:

>>>

>>>> Yes ma'am I have done the necessary research and have some questions that I am waiting for staff. What is a good time to contact you today?

>>>>

>>>> -----Original Message-----

>>>> From: Barbara J Thomas [mailto:barbarat@family-values.org]

>>>> Sent: Wednesday, August 31, 2016 10:32 AM

>>>> To: Etta Harris

>>>> Cc: Melissa Horton; michaelf; latoshai@fvri.org; nbrwhc;

>>>> reginabarrows; Marketa G. Walters

>>>> Subject: Re: Meeting Request

>>>>

>>>> Hello Ms. Harris,

>>>>

>>>> I spoke to you on Thursday of last week about the balance of FVRI's reimbursement for contract period March 2016 to June 2016 for the Alternatives to Abortion Initiative? Do you have an update of the reimbursement?

>>>>

>>>> Thanks

>>>> Barbara Thomas

>>>>

>>>>

>>>>

>>>> Quoting Etta Harris <Etta.Harris.DCFS@la.gov>:

>>>>

>>>>> Ms Thomas this is Etta. Are you available to talk at this time

>>>>>

>>>>> Sent from my iPad

>>>>>

>>>>>> On Aug 25, 2016, at 10:48 AM, "Barbara J Thomas"

>>>>>> <barbarat@family-values.org> wrote:

>>>>>>

>>>>>> Hello Again Ms. Walters,

>>>>>>

>>>>>> As of today, I have not received a response to the email below.

>>>>>> I am certain that your department is doing a wonderful service

>>>>>> to those of us who have lost so much in the floods. Thank you

>>>>>> for your dedication and assistance to us in this this very trying time.

>>>>>>

>>>>>> In an effort to obtain clarification on the matter of FVRI

>>>>>> reimbursements, I have sought direction from Ben Clapper at LA

>>>>>> Right to Life and will be speaking to the Governors' office as well.

>>>>>>

>>>>> If you have any information to share concerning this matter, please advise.

>>>>

>>>>> Thank You

>>>>> Barbara Thomas

>>>>

>>>>

>>>>

>>>>> ----- Forwarded message from Barbara J Thomas  
>>>>> <barbarat@family-values.org> -----

>>>>> Date: Tue, 23 Aug 2016 18:17:32 +0000

>>>>> From: Barbara J Thomas <barbarat@family-values.org>

>>>>> Subject: Re: Meeting Request

>>>>> To: "Marketa G. Walters" <Marketa.Walters@la.gov>

>>>>> Cc: michaelf <michaelf@fvri.org>, latoshai@fvri.org, crt854

>>>>> <crt854@aol.com>, nbrwhc <nbrwhc@aol.com>, Melissa Horton

>>>>> <Melissa.Horton.DCFS@la.gov>

>>>>

>>>>> Yes ma'am I do understand because I have immediate family

>>>>> members as well who have lost everything in the flood. I, too,

>>>>> am providing help and assistance to the many people coming into our organization.

>>>>> FVRI has served as a disaster relief center in Katrina and other

>>>>> disasters. So yes I do understand.

>>>>

>>>>> However, the matter concerning FVRI's reimbursement began quite

>>>>> some time before the flood when there were no restraints and

>>>>> should have been resolved before now. I have provided all the

>>>>> documentation that DCFS has required of us and according to our

>>>>> contract, DCFS owes FVRI additional funds.

>>>>

>>>>> FVRI is in need of the funds owed so that we can provide for

>>>>> those who are coming through our doors.

>>>>

>>>>> It is unfortunate that the state has taken the position not to

>>>>> honor your contract by withholding these funds and further have

>>>>> chosen not to meet with us to provide explanation. Further, we

>>>>> have been treated with disrespect and general unconcern about

>>>>> the wellbeing of FVRI. I feel that we have been dismissed, put

>>>>> off, and ignored since June regarding this matter.

>>>>

>>>>> Can you tell me when we can expect payment? Does DCFS intend to

>>>>> meet these obligations at all? What other recourse do we have?

>>>>> Is there anyone other than the one third who can help me resolve this matter?

>>>>> Waiting three or four additional weeks is unacceptable and is

>>>>> very unfair.

>>>>

>>>>> Thank you for your help in this matter!

>>>>> Barbara Thomas

>>>>

>>>>

>>>>> Quoting "Marketa G. Walters" <Marketa.Walters@la.gov>:

>>>>

>>>>> Ms. Thomas, thank you for this request. I am sorry that you  
>>>>> didn't receive a response earlier.

>>>>>  
>>>>> DCFS has one third of its workforce deployed in disaster response  
>>>>> and recovery. I am not able to meet with you in the next few  
>>>>> weeks while we are in the midst of this disaster. If there are  
>>>>> other staff that might be able to help you, I am happy for you  
>>>>> to have some time with them in early September. ALL of our  
>>>>> fiscal and policy people are deployed in our emergency  
>>>>> operations at the moment. I am sure you can understand the  
>>>>> constraints on us during this tragic and trying time in our state.  
>>>>>

>>>>> Marketa Garner Walters  
>>>>> Secretary  
>>>>> Department of Children and Family Services

>>>>> -----Original Message-----

>>>>> From: Barbara J Thomas [mailto:[barbarat@family-values.org](mailto:barbarat@family-values.org)]  
>>>>> Sent: Tuesday, August 23, 2016 11:51 AM  
>>>>> To: Marketa G. Walters  
>>>>> Cc: michaelf; latoshai@fvri.org; crt854; nbrwhc  
>>>>> Subject: Meeting Request

>>>>>  
>>>>>

>>>>> Dear Ms. Walters,

>>>>>  
>>>>> I would like a meeting with you as soon as possible to discuss  
>>>>> state procedures, policies and rules (mainly accounting  
>>>>> regulations) as they relate to state providers. I have  
>>>>> requested a meeting with you previously but I did not receive a response.  
>>>>>

>>>>> Any time this week or next would be appreciated.

>>>>>  
>>>>> Thank you in advance

>>>>> Barbara Thomas  
>>>>> Executive Director  
>>>>> Family Values Resource Institute, Inc.

>>>>>  
>>>>> --

>>>>> Barbara J Thomas  
>>>>> Director, The Women's Help Center/LA Alliance For Life  
>>>>> 225-359-9001 O  
>>>>> 225-355-2742 F  
>>>>>  
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>>> --

>>> Barbara J Thomas

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>>> <Proof of Payment-June Reimbursement Balance.pdf> <Proof of

>>> Payment-May Reimbursement Balance.pdf>

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